



School Saving Bonus (SSB)

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Term 4 2024, families with a child enrolled in a Government school from Prep to Year 12 in 2025 will receive the one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus (SSB).

The \$400 School Saving Bonus provides families with support for education-related costs, such as school activities and/or school uniforms and textbooks.

The School Saving Bonus is not available for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus, download the [School Saving Bonus Information sheet for government school parents and carers](#) or visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus.

University High School parents can allocate the School Saving Bonus for the following:

- Textbooks - Champion/Edrolo
- Uniforms - UHS Sports Top
- School Activities - Camp & Excursions

If you have allocated School Saving Bonus towards uniform or school activities within the SSB portal, please **DO NOT pay in Compass** for those items.

UHS Parent Guide for School Saving Bonus can be found on your Parent Compass Newsfeed.



Financial Support for Families

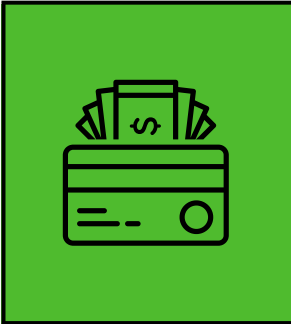
The University High School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- **CSEF (Camps Sports and Excursions Fund)** - provided by DE and is automatically paid to family accounts. Applications via school. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$250.00 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Special consideration eligibility category also exists. CSEF payments will be processed directly to schools with majority of payments to commence from March 2025 onwards. Please visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>
- **Payment plans** - Option for contribution payments in instalments see page 10. If you wish to discuss further, contact Business Manager on 9347 2022 or email Ohlu Wickramaratna - ohlu.wickramaratna@education.vic.gov.au or Erin Rathnasekara (Assistant Business Manager) - erin.rathnasekara@education.vic.gov.au
- **State Schools Relief**- External Agency Support is available from organisations such as State School Relief. Please visit: <https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/>
- **Additional School Financial Support** - If you would like to apply for this support, please complete this form by clicking the link [HERE](#). School staff will get in touch with you.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Ohlu Wickramaratna, Business Manager on 9347 2022 or via email ohlu.wickramaratna@education.vic.gov.au

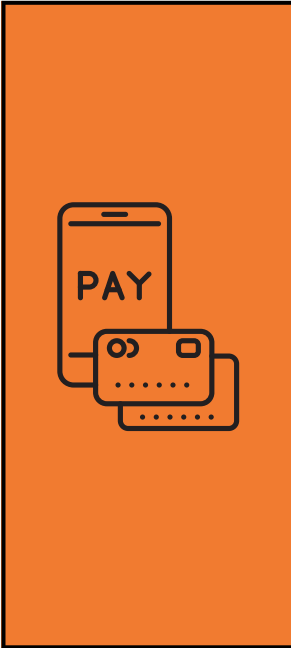
For further information regarding the Department's Financial Help for Families Policy see: [Financial Help for Families: Policy | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/financial-help-for-families-policy)



Payment Methods

- Compass Pay
- Pay in Contributions (instalment payments)
- BPAY
- Credit Card/EFTPOS/Cash

The preferred method of payment is via Compass Pay.
Payments can be made at the Front Office by Cash/Card.

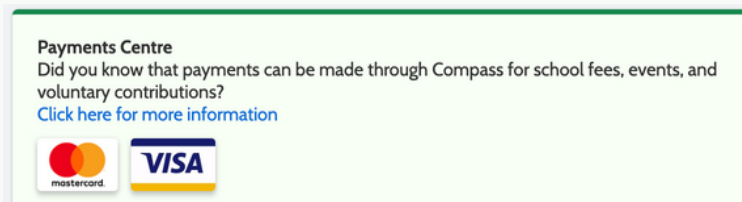


How to make payments on Compass

Step 1: Log into your Parent Compass Portal unihigh-vic.compass.education using your Parent Compass Username and Password.

Step 2: On your Compass Homepage, you will see **Payments Centre** click on **“Click here for more information”**.

Step 3: Follow the Compass prompts and instructions to make the payment. You will have option to Pay in Full or Pay in Contributions. Please click on the drop-down menu if you select to Pay in Contributions.



Please refer to the Compass Newsfeed for our Compass Billing Payment Guide if you need further assistance.



Building & Library Fund

Donations to the Building Fund help support the school's building and grounds improvements. With our school's historic facilities, there is an ongoing need to renovate and upgrade spaces to ensure they are comfortable and contemporary. Whilst we can only undertake major renovations.

In 2024, donations from the Building Fund enabled us to contribute an additional \$1million to upgrade our fire-damaged Level 2 (Senior Science labs and classrooms) in the South Building. This meant that we were able to add features such as these to the basic restoration:

- New toilet block (10 individual stalls, including accessible and ambulant facilities) on the ground floor of the South Building.
- Student collaborative space
- Staffroom for our Science teachers
- Solar panels to reduce the school's on-grid energy usage
- Double-glazing and decals on interconnecting classroom doors and windows

Future projects identified for the Building Fund include:

- Installation of CCTV cameras throughout the school to enhance student safety and deter vandalism
- Installation of new air conditioning in the Main Building and West Wing classrooms
- Repair of the fire curtain in the Sharman Hall, enabling us to use this space once again for performances

Donations to the Library Fund support the provision of high-quality international research databases and ebook subscription services for our Library, well beyond the scope of an ordinary School Library. Every donation makes a difference.



Refunds - Excursions, Camps and Instrumental Music

All Camps, excursions and incursions are fully self-funded. On site activities and incursions at the school will not be refunded in the case of absence or withdrawal. One day excursions will not be refunded in the case of absence or withdrawal.

- Camps – Students withdrawing from Camp will not automatically be entitled to a refund. In the case of illness or withdrawal there may be a chance of a partial refund where the principal/principals delegate deems the student's withdrawal was unavoidable. Proof of reason for withdrawal may be requested in such circumstances. (Eg. medical certificate). Students are covered by VMIA Insurance for the camp. Camp includes \$18.15 insurance cover per student. Any refund requests must be applied through VMIA.
- Tax Deductible Donations are unable to be refunded once an official tax-deductible receipt has been issued.
- Instrumental Music - Where a family has requested a refund for any part of the Instrumental Music levy, consideration will first be given to the costs incurred by the school in planning and arranging Instrumental Music Instruction and the cost of any non-returnable items provided to the student.

**To discuss further please contact our Business Manager,
Ohlu Wickramaratna on 9347 2022.**

